

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
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FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4820  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 06769

BELGRADE FOR CSCE DEL

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CSCE, NATO, FR  
SUBJECT: FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO NATO CSCE PREPARATIONS

REF: (A) NATO 6599, (B) STATE 160117, (C) PARIS 20119,  
(D) PARIS 20341

SUMMARY: AT JULY 12 POLADS MEETING, THE FRENCH REP MAINTAINED STIFF OPPOSITION TO ANY FURTHER NATO PAPERS ON CSCE, EXCEPT FOR CBMS PAPER. WHILE UK REP CHALLENGED FRENCH POSITION, OTHERS EXPRESSED REGRET AND HOPE THAT PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS COULD BE FOUND TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ALLIED PREPARATIONS FOR THE MAIN BELGRADE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. AT POLADS MEETING FOLLOWING JULY 12 PERMREP'S DISCUSSION OF FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO NATO CSCE PREPARATIONS, US REP DREW FULLY ON TALKING POINTS IN PARA 10 REF A, NOTING LONG HISTORY OF CLOSE ALLIANCE CSCE CONSULTATIONS, OUR DESIRE TO  
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ACHIEVE AS HARMONIOUS AN APPROACH AS POSSIBLE TO BELGRADE, AND OUR VIEW THAT A SIMPLE "EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" WOULD NOT DO THE JOB.

2. TURKISH, ITALIAN, AND CANADIAN REPS SPOKE AT LENGTH ON IMPORTANCE OF ALLIED CSCE CONSULTATIONS, NEED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH POLADS PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE II, AND HOPE THAT

PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS COULD BE FOUND TO DIFFERENCES ON HANDLING PAPERS THAT MIGHT EMERGE FROM THIS PROCESS. FRG, NORWEGIAN, AND DANISH REPS EXPRESSED REGRET AND PUZZLEMENT REGARDING FRENCH POSITION, HOPE THAT WORK ON COMMON NATO PAPERS COULD CONTINUE, AND WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS. FRENCH REP STRESSED HER AUTHORITIES' WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT NATO, SHOWED NO FLEXIBILITY ON PREPARATION OF PAPERS EXCEPT CBMS, AND ARGUED THAT A MORE COORDINATED APPROACH WOULD GIVE IMPRESSION OF A BLOC-TO-BLOC APPROACH TO BELGRADE.

3. UK REP EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS BUT DISAGREED WITH COMMENTS BY SOME OTHERS THAT THERE WAS NO BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FRENCH AND OTHER ALLIES. NOTING THAT IF ALLIES HAD NOT STUCK TOGETHER AT HELSINKI AND GENEVA THEY WOULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED BASKET III RESULTS, UK REP REGRETTED THAT, THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE MAIN BELGRADE MEETING, THE FRENCH HAVE DECIDED TO SPIKE NATO CSCE CONSULTATIONS AND TO PREVENT THE OTHER ALLIES FROM GETTING ON WITH THEIR WORK.

4. BELGIAN REP NOTED DIFFICULTY IN GETTING INSTRUCTIONS WHILE CSCE EXPERTS WERE PREOCCUPIED WITH BELGRADE, FORESAW LITTLE PROGRESS IN POLADS CSCE WORK BEFORE SEPTEMBER, AND SUGGESTED CSCE EXPERTS MIGHT MEET WITH POLADS IN SEPTEMBER TO PREPARE FOR COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS WITH HEADS OF ALLIED

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DELEGATIONS TO BELGRADE II. FRG REP SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL, AND FRENCH REP EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS. US AND UK REPS URGED CONTINUED EFFORTS TO MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY IN POLADS WORK THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

5. POSSIBILITY OF NON-PAPERS, CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS, AND GENERAL PAPERS PREPARED BY INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS WERE MENTIONED, BUT DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT IMPASSE WERE INCONCLUSIVE.

6. COMMENT: WHILE SOME POLADS SEEM INCLINED TO TEST LIMITS OF FRENCH FLEXIBILITY AS WORK MOVES AHEAD, OTHERS ARE LIKELY TO PRESS FOR EARLY AGREEMENT ON A PROCEDURAL SOLUTION. SOME HOPE THE FRENCH WILL AT LEAST PERMIT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF TO SYNTHESIZE NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS ON CSCE TOPICS OTHER THAN CBMS AND TO PREPARE DRAFTS FOR POLADS DISCUSSIONS, WHILE COMMITTEE RESERVES JUDGMENT ON FINAL DISPOSITION OF THESE PAPERS. IF THE FRENCH OPPOSE ANY INTERNATIONAL STAFF DRAFTING ON SUBJECTS ASIDE FROM CBMS, POLADS WORK WILL BE HAMPERED IN WEEKS AHEAD.

7. HAVING PLACED ON RECORD OUR POSITION AND OUR DESIRE

FOR POLADS WORK ON CSCE TO PROCEED AS BEFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT FOR THE TIME BEING WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFRAIN (PER PARA 2 REF B) FROM COMMENTING ON POSSIBLE FALLBACKS, UNTIL WE SEE WHETHER THE FRENCH SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN FORTH-COMING MEETINGS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT AN EARLY MODIFICATION IN OUR APPROACH TO THE THEMES PAPER, ALONG THE

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LINES SUGGESTED PARA 13 REF A WILL BOLSTER SUPPORT FROM OTHER POLADS FOR COORDINATED EFFORT IN THIS AREA. WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER RECOMMENDATION ON THIS POINT AFTER NEXT POLADS MEETING. BENNETT

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